

John Chamberlain

Open Season on the CIA

WASHINGTON—The cat that swallowed the canary has nothing on those people, reading from Left to Right, who, for one reason or another, have it in for the Central Intelligence Agency.



JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

They are all extremely busy using the Ramparts Magazine break about the CIA subsidization of the National Student Association to hint at all sorts of connections between our master spy and "psy-war" organization and private citizens' groups, as if it were a dastardly thing for a nation to try to defend itself.

The CIA is in for it for two sets of reasons. The first set, which has made it hated by the Left, is very much to its credit.

By picking up the tab for a lot of indigent anti-Communist organizations during the Cold War period, it enabled good fighting men to operate at maximum effectiveness.

As long as there was a sense of national commitment to the Cold War, the secrecy necessary to carrying forward delicate counter-propaganda exploits could be maintained.

Under the Truman and Eisenhower administrations anti-Communist liberals closed ranks with conservatives in supporting CIA-financed projects.

So we blunted the campaigns of Stalin and the later missile-happy Khrushchev to "bury" us. To the extent that we have won some relaxation in the Cold War as it affects U.S. interest in Europe, CIA-financed aid to both ADA-blessed projects and more orthodox rightist anti-Communist maneuvers was at the bottom of it.

Success, however, breeds slackness and forgetfulness. The high purpose manifest when Harry Truman was busy giving the CIA its charter has been greatly watered down.

Because the Soviet regime needs peace in Eastern Europe in order to face its troubles in Asia and to exploit its luck in the Near East, in Africa and in Castroite Cuba, we are being lulled into accepting the idea that permanent bridges can be built between the capitals of the West and Moscow.

And so we have the cat-that-swallowed-the-canary look on the faces of old anti-Communist leftists and ADA members as they hint—nay, even say it outright—that "an inquiry would show innumerable instances in

which AFL-CIO agents collaborated with CIA's cloak-and-dagger men in an infinite variety of coups and undercover intrigues."

If public inquiry is ever held, it will be a prime victory for the Communists. Our agents would be compromised everywhere. It would mean the end of a great democracy's attempt to keep its eyes and ears unimpaired for ticklish days that will certainly come again if the Soviet Union's side manages to win in mainland China.

The CIA has made its mistakes. Some of its hard-line anti-Communist critics have even suspected that it has all along been infiltrated. They point to its origins in the World War II Office of Strategic Services, which justified the employment of fellow travelers of the Communists on the ground that Russia was our ally against the Nazis.

For better or worse, the new generations in Western Europe and America are bored with the old battles. If the young intellectuals of the Soviet Union weren't just as bored with Marxism and Leninism as our intellectuals are bored with anti-communism, we would be in mortal danger of being taken.

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the small society

by Brickman

THERE'S PROBABLY ONLY ONE PERSON IN A MILLION WHO REALLY UNDERSTANDS THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM!

SO HOW COME I KEEP RUNNING INTO HIM?



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